

ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER,

UNDER THE SANCTION OF

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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SLAVERY IN THE SPANISH COLONIES.

DEPUTATION TO EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

WE regret to inform our readers that, since our last issue, the prospects of emancipation in Cuba and of any speedy termination of the protracted civil war, which continues to be distinguished by almost incredible barbarities, remain as dark and hopeless as ever.

The despatch of armaments now amounting to 110,000 troops, by "Liberated Spain" to subjugate the Cubans, who have long suffered under oppressions tenfold more galling than were ever endured in the mother country, has been a great national crime for which she appears to be receiving a just retribution. Whilst so many of her sons have thus been sacrificed by sword and pestilence in a tropical climate, the darkness and chaos of her own political situation still increase.

It is now become but too evident that we ourselves have been the suggestors of, if we have not actually become parties to,

her existing dynastic arrangements. Such an equivocal position explains the unhappy reticence of our Minister at Madrid, when he ought to have insisted at length on the fulfilment of our treaties in the interests of the slave, and on behalf of outraged humanity in Cuba.

The following report of a deputation to Lord Granville will show our readers that the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have endeavoured to impress the Government with their conviction of the duty of England at this juncture, but they fear that thus far it has been with little effect.

On Tuesday, January 23, an influential deputation waited on Earl Granville, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to present an Address of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and to urge upon the Government the necessity of using its influence with Spain, in conjunction with the United States Government, to secure the emancipation of the slaves in Cuba and Porto Rico. Among others the following

gentlemen attended—the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P.; Dr. Brewer, M.P.; C. Gilpin, Esq., M.P.; T. Hughes, Esq., M.P.; E. A. Bowring, Esq., M.P.; A. Johnstone, Esq., M.P.; W. McArthur, Esq., M.P.; Samuel Gurney, Esq., President; W. Allen, Esq., Treasurer; Edmund Sturge, Esq., and R. Alsop, Esq., Hon. Secretaries; the Rev. B. Millard, Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society; the Rev. J. O. Whitehouse, of the London Missionary Society; Mr. W. Tallack, Secretary of the Howard Association; Mr. F. W. Chesson, Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society. Letters were received from Sir T. F. Buxton, Dr. E. B. Underhill, the Revd. Messrs. Arthur, Luke W. Wiseman, Horace Waller, also from J. Whitwill, M.P., B. Scott (the Chamberlain of London), John Holmes, M.P., Samuel Morley, M.P., F. Wheeler, Esqrs., &c., &c., expressive of their regret that owing to other engagements they were unable to attend, and of their sympathy with the object sought.

The Hon. A. Kinnaird, having introduced the deputation to his Lordship, the Secretary read the following Address:—

"TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE EARL GRANVILLE, K.G., HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

"MY LORD,—The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society begs respectfully to call the attention of Earl Granville to the fact that, on a recent occasion, the delegates from the Island of Porto Rico to the Cortes in Madrid presented an address to King Amadeus I., soliciting His Majesty to aid their efforts to get rid of the curse of Slavery, and that the delegates have also presented a bill to the Cortes for the immediate and entire abolition of Slavery in that island.

"The Committee has also been informed that the project will meet with the determined opposition of that powerful and opulent party in Madrid which, till a comparatively recent date, carried on the slave-trade from Africa to Cuba, which statement derives material support from Her Majesty's representatives in Cuba, contained in the last published Blue-books, as to the intention of the Spanish party in Cuba to revive the slave-trade whenever opportunity may occur.

"In view of these things, and of the treaty rights of Great Britain with Spain, the Committee feels that it would fail in its duty to the sacred cause of humanity were it not again respectfully to entreat your Lordship to use your powerful influence with the Spanish Government in favour of the entire abolition of slavery both in Porto Rico and Cuba.

"Signed on behalf of the Committee,

"JOSEPH COOPER,

"ROBERT ALSOP,

"EDMUND STURGE,

"BENJAMIN MILLARD, Secretary."

Mr. EDMUND STURGE referred in feeling terms to the death of Lord Clarendon about a fortnight after the last deputation had waited on his lordship on the subject of Spanish Slavery, and also to the fearful war between Prussia and France, which so absorbed public attention as to exclude this important subject from due consideration. He regretted that at present the question of emancipation of the slaves in the Spanish Colonies had not advanced, and believed that the present fearful struggle of parties in Cuba could only be terminated by the abolition of slavery in that island. Few persons could realise the state of things, and the number of deaths in Cuba. As an illustration he would read an extract of a letter from Nicolas Petrovich, a professor of Natural History, who had visited that colony. Under date of May 19, 1870, he says:

"Under any circumstances, the vast number of lives which have been lost in Cuba from the beginning of the troubles until now, cause us to wonder if the neighbouring States are fully informed of all that has occurred. There are three Consuls-General in Havannah—French, American, and English. Do these officials report to their respective Governments all that passes before them? It seems strange that the great American Government, to whose realms Cuba almost adjoins (for only a few dozen miles of smooth sea separate them), should contentedly look on, and witness atrocious and barbarous spilling of human blood for months and years.

"If we regard the numbers who have died on both sides since the insurgent Cubans rose against the Spanish rule, we shall certainly be shocked and astonished. I was informed by a French subject, long resident in Cuba, that by fevers and other maladies, by fightings and by wounds, by military and civil executions, and by starvation and misery in remote parts, more than 70,000 (seventy thousand) individuals have died! On conversing on this alarming assertion with a Spanish naval officer, he expressed no surprise, and appeared to suppose that the Frenchman was perhaps in the right. He said, 'What we Spanish officers most regret is the shooting of prisoners and suspected country peasants by the volunteers without our sanction or approval. This is to us regulars very loathsome: but what can we do? We have given these ruffians arms, and they will now never give them back to us. They are the masters of the situation, and the number more than 60,000 (sixty thousand) well-armed Spaniards, who are exasperated against the Cubans, and who avowedly wish to exterminate them all.'"

Mr. STURGE observed further that when the deputation waited on Lord Clarendon, on June 15, 1870, the interposition of Government on behalf of the Spanish slaves was asked on the ground that a "large proportion of the negro population now in

bondage is so held in violation of international faith—that Great Britain had paid Spain £400,000 to compensate for any losses she might sustain by the suppression of the Slave-trade—that since 1820 the importations of negroes into Cuba have exceeded more than twofold the number of slaves now officially reported as existing in that island—and that the Spanish Government had failed to carry out its pledges in 1868 in reference to the work of Emancipation.” It is to be lamented that since the time of that interview nothing effective has been done by our Government to influence the Spanish Cabinet to abolish slavery in the Colonies, but the strife as between slavery and freedom has continued to rage. Upwards of 70,000 troops have been sent out from Spain to Cuba, but Spain seems to be plunging deeper and deeper in the fatal course on which she has entered, and the position of the question of Emancipation, so far as the Government of Spain is concerned, remains unchanged.

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society have paid vigilant attention to everything that has occurred in Spain respecting the slavery question, and possesses some sources of information which are not open to a Foreign Minister whose diplomatic position necessarily limits his means of knowing much that transpires. From letters received only yesterday, it appears that public meetings have been recently held in Badajos, Leon, Salamanca, Barcelona, and other places; that a crowded meeting has been held in the Theatre del Recreo, in Madrid, at which resolutions were passed calling upon Government to carry out the principles of the Revolution of September, 1868, and the giving absolute freedom to the slaves; tendering thanks to the Porto Rico Deputies who have recently presented to the Cortes a plan for immediate emancipation, and expressive of approval of the editors of the sixty-nine newspapers who have not accepted the subvention of the pro-Slavery committee, but continue to advocate the total abolition of Slavery. From this it is clear that the people of Spain desire emancipation, and it is felt that the British Government, through its representative in Madrid, should strengthen the hands of the friends of freedom. Mr. Sturge expressed the sentiment of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, that Mr. Layard had not done all that should have been done in the furtherance of the cause of freedom in Madrid.

Mr. Sturge further observed that the published dispatches of the United States Government to its representative in Madrid on the subject of slavery in the Spanish colonies, were clear and decisive. In evidence of this, he quoted the following ex-

tracts from diplomatic correspondence of Mr. Hamilton Fish, the Secretary of State, to General Sickles, Minister in Madrid:—

“June 29, 1869.—The President therefore directs you to offer to the Cabinet at Madrid the good offices of the United States for the purpose of bringing to a close the civil war now ravaging the island of Cuba, on the following basis:—1. . . . 2. . . . 3. The abolition of Slavery in the island of Cuba.” “Madrid, Dec. 29, 1869.—No. 46. . . . The British Minister, Mr. Layard, informed me the night before last that he had been instructed by Lord Clarendon to second my suggestions to this Government in relation to the abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico. I replied that all that I had said was unofficial, and so understood by the Cabinet; that I had furnished the Colonial Secretary with a memorandum of the history and results of emancipation in the United States.”

Mr. Fish writes to General Sickles, in reply,—

“Washington, January 26, 1870. . . . In your interview with Mr. Layard, I notice that to his statement that he had been instructed by Lord Clarendon to second your suggestion to the Spanish Government in relation to the abolition of slavery, you replied that all you have said upon the subject had been unofficial. This naturally causes some surprise in this department, where, from the commencement and through all the stages of negotiations and correspondence, the instructions to make the abolition of slavery a *sine quâ non* have been given in the most positive manner. It is not to be supposed that your remark to Mr. Layard was intended in the broad sense in which it may be interpreted as implying an absence of instructions from the Department on this important subject. If, when the offer of our good offices was withdrawn, you were not instructed to continue to urge the abolition, it was because your dispatches indicated that the Spanish Cabinet were not then in a mood to listen to suggestions from Washington. I have regarded it, and still regard it, as your duty, under existing instructions, at all times whenever in your judgment a fitting opportunity offers, to do all in your power to secure complete emancipation, not only in Cuba, but also in Porto Rico. It becomes more apparent every day that this contest cannot terminate without the abolition of slavery. This Government regards the Government of Madrid as committed to that result. You have several times received positive assurances to that effect from more than one member of that Cabinet. They have also promised large and liberal reforms in the Spanish colonial policy. As late as the 3rd of December last the Foreign Minister thought these promises of enough importance to make them the subject of a cable telegram. You will, therefore, if it shall appear that the insurrection is regarded as suppressed, frankly state that this Government, relying upon the assurances so often given,

will expect steps to be taken for the emancipation of the slaves in the Spanish Colonies, as well as for the early initiation of the promised reforms, and you will then communicate to Mr. Layard the fact that you have done so."

Again, Mr. Fish writes to General Sickles, under date of June 20, 1870 :—

"It is with regret that we fail to find in the scheme of Emancipation which is forwarded in your No. 116 evidence of the earnest purpose to abolish slavery for which your previous dispatches had prepared us. It may rather be called a project for relieving the slave-owners from the necessity of supporting infants and aged slaves, who can only be a burden, and of prolonging the institution as to able-bodied slaves."

It was satisfactory to observe that the American Government have thus spoken in terms that could not be misunderstood ; and he concluded by saying that it would have been satisfactory to have found that Mr. Layard had spoken in the same earnest tone ; a duty which it may be presumed has been delayed lest it might embarrass the Spanish Administration in carrying out their political and dynastic arrangements. This, however, he must view as a grievous and fatal mistake, and he trusted that Mr. Layard would at length be instructed to speak in terms which cannot be misunderstood, and that Her Majesty's Government would now interpose for the termination of the bloody strife in Cuba, and rescue Spain from the fatal course to which she is now committed.

C. GILPIN, Esq., M.P., in addressing his Lordship, begged to bear his testimony to the respectability and reliable nature of the source of the information his relative, Mr. E. Sturge, had given respecting the state of things in Spain. Personally, he thought that Mr. Layard was a true anti-slavery man, and in sympathy with anti-slavery efforts ; but he, in common with some of his friends, did not think that Mr. Layard had done all that he should have done as the representative of a free nation, and of a Government that advocated abolition principles. We had, he thought, a strong case, as in 1818, the British Government, under terms of a treaty, had paid Spain £400,000 to compensate her for any supposed loss she might sustain by the abolition of the Slave-trade. Moreover, it was further proved that, according to returns, the illegal importation of slaves into Cuba was more than double the number of slaves now existing in that island, and this country had a right to press for emancipation in the Spanish Colonies.

Dr. BREWER, M.P., followed with a few remarks, and the Hon. A. KINNAIRD expressed the hope that Government would

exert its influence in the direction of the Abolition of Slavery in the Spanish Colonies.

Earl GRANVILLE expressed his regret that his indisposition had prevented him from receiving the deputation before this time. He concurred in some of the statements made by gentlemen, admitted that we had treaty claims on Spain, and that the efforts put forth to secure the emancipation of the slave population in Cuba had not been successful. At the same time he wished to assure the deputation that he believed Mr. Layard had acted as energetically and judiciously as possible under the circumstances. He (Earl Granville) feared that the pro-slavery party in Spain did not believe in the benevolent object professed by some in seeking abolition, but suspected them of other and ulterior designs. In this matter, the English Government desired to act on all suitable occasions ; but in the present strife between Spain and her Colonies, he felt that it was a very delicate matter to interfere. As to the atrocities in Cuba, he put aside the question of any interposition on our part altogether. He had been in deliberation with some members of the Government on the state of things in Cuba, but was not at liberty to announce any particulars of the discussion to the public.

Mr. W. TALLACK, addressing his Lordship, referred to the successful efforts of Mr. Gladstone in exposing the cruelties in the Neapolitan prisons, which he visited some years ago ; how that these roused the British nation, and obtained an earnest protest against, and the removal of, these evils. Then how much more determined should be the efforts of the British Government to bring to an end the fearful atrocities in Cuba, where eight medical students had lately been shot, and a number more had been sentenced to various terms of penal servitude, professedly because they had desecrated a Spaniard's grave, and where the Captain-General had lately issued a proclamation that after January 15 every insurgent should be shot. With Naples we had at the time referred to no treaty. With Spain we have treaty rights, and he hoped that the eminent statesman who was now at the head of the Government would exert himself more effectively on behalf of the oppressed and enslaved in Cuba than his Lordship had given the deputation reason to look for.

The deputation thanked his Lordship for receiving them, and then withdrew.

ATROCITIES IN CUBA.

WE observe an article in *The Cosmopolitan* on this subject, setting forth some of the deeds supposed to be done by the Spanish party in Cuba. They are of such a character that, for humanity's sake, we hope the accounts are incorrect. Yet, men who will shoot and send to penal servitude boys who have only desecrated a grave, are, it is to be feared, prepared for the commission of any barbarities. One consolation is that such outrages on humanity eventually bring their due punishment, and recoil on the perpetrators at a time they do not expect.

"The Cincinnati Enquirer of a recent date says:—We are satisfied that the Spanish Government in Cuba, in their war with the people of that island, who are contending for the American principle of self-government, have been guilty of as many cruel violations of the plainest principles of humanity as the Turks were with the Greeks fifty years ago. In its issue of the 16th inst., the *New York Tribune* publishes a communication two and a half columns in length, from the pen of Mrs. Lila Waring de Luaces, who, for two years, was, with her husband, Dr. Luaces, within the lines of the Cuban insurgents. The *Tribune's* editorial sums up the facts in a few lines thus:—
"Accustomed as we are to narratives of barbarity in Cuba, this picture of the massacre of women, children, and helpless invalids, is enough to make us stand aghast. Savages never showed more barbarity than the volunteers of the unfortunate island. The pioneers of the Indian wilderness never suffered worse tortures than the wretched non-combatants whom Spanish soldiers found within the insurgent lines. Men were bayoneted and hacked to death under the eyes of their wives and children. Prisoners were butchered to save the trouble of transportation. In one place seven women and five children were decapitated: in another a woman was chopped to pieces with her newborn child. Four men who had taken no part in the insurrection were crucified, wearing crowns of thorns. A young man dying of consumption was carried out of the house in a chair, and shot through the head, the bullet entering the body of his mother. He was the last of five brothers, all massacred by the volunteers. Two ladies, with four children, were cut to pieces, and a fifth child, two years of age, was thrown alive into their burning house. A young lady, suspected of carrying letters to the insurgents, was first searched and then ordered to pass in review before the Governor of Puerto Principe and a number of his officers, with nothing on her person but a single under-garment." We regard the Spanish government in Cuba as one that is unfit to exist—that has outlawed itself, and deserves no toleration from the world."—*Cosmopolitan*.

MASSACRE AND PENAL SERVITUDE OF HAVANA STUDENTS.

THE story is a horror. The students in the medical school in Havana, freed from a lecture by the illness of their instructor, "just for a frolic" leaped the fence of the cemetery opposite, and did some violence to the grave of an officer of the Volunteers. They broke the glass which protected a wreath of immortelles, and wrote some scurrilous lines on the stone of him who was the representative of the Spanish and slave party. This was their offence.

The students in Cuba, as everywhere, except in Scotland, are enthusiastic for liberty, and cherish no great affection toward the Volunteers, or their general, whose grave they desecrated.

The students' frolic occurred on the afternoon of Thursday, the 23rd ult. The Volunteers demanded vengeance. The Captain-General Crespo was willing enough to apprehend and imprison the offenders; but that was quite too tame. The Volunteers threatened and intimidated him. He brought the boys before a court-martial, which, under pressure of the direst threats, tried and condemned them on Sunday, and on Monday the decree of the court was carried out by the military execution of eight of them, and the sending of thirty others to the chain-gang for periods of from four to six years. For breaking a piece of glass, and scattering a few flowers, and scribbling a few obnoxious lines, thirty youngsters, mostly in their teens, are to drag a ball and chain for years by the side of highwaymen and cut-throats, and eight have been shot! No wonder that mothers have gone crazy, and that a chill of horror blanches every face.

SLAVERY OF CHINESE IN CUBA.

WE commend the statements in the accompanying letter from a Havana correspondent, published in the *New York Sun* of February 12th, 1872, showing the state of things in Cuba. We learn through both Cuban and American sources that a slave-trade in negroes from the east coast of Africa is still carried on to some of the remote parts of Cuba; but if the Slavocracy can secure Chinese slaves cheaper and easier, the trade will become more brisk in Chinese flesh and muscle:—

"SLAVERY RE-ESTABLISHED.

"THE SPANISH SLAVE-TRADERS RESTORING THE BLACK BLOT OF SLAVERY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

"Havana, January 30th.

"The subject of coolie labour is engrossing the attention of the civilised world. The outrages principally complained of appear to be that the labourers are obtained and induced to enter upon an engagement of servitude either without fully understanding the nature of the

work to which their services are to be applied, or against their will; in other words, that they are kidnapped. People conversant with the state of Chinese labour in this island are at a loss to understand that while the trials of Feejeeans and other South Sea Islanders attract the sympathy and form glowing subjects for the oratory of American and other national legislators, those of the 'heathen Chinese' are comparatively or positively buried in oblivion. Has the Spanish Minister through his ally, Hamilton Fish, gagged the mouths of every member of the American Congress? In this island indentures, contracts, temporary service, &c., as far as Chinese are concerned, are empty words. Every Chinaman in Cuba is by law a slave for life. His position before Valmaseda's late proclamation, which, *en passant*, is of a piece with all his others, and which he dared emit solely by virtue of the impunity accorded to his previous ones, was bad enough. Since its publication nothing but foreign intervention can free any or every Chinaman now on the island, or who may in future arrive here, from slavery for life.

"KIDNAPPED INTO SLAVERY.

"In this city there has existed for many years a joint-stock company, whose President is Don J. A. Colomé, and whose business has been to introduce Chinese labour. The labourers were engaged in China by written agreement, in which they bound themselves, in consideration of the monthly wage of four dollars and a quarter, to devote their services for the term of eight years to whatever labour their contractors or assigns might choose to set them to. In consequence of pressure brought upon the Madrid Government over a year ago by the British abolitionists through the Foreign Office—a pressure based upon valid and uncontrovertible proofs that the majority of these apparently voluntary emigrants were really kidnapped in China, and forced to sign an agreement of whose terms they were entirely ignorant—the Spanish Government was induced to issue an ordinance suppressing the traffic. A limit was fixed, after the expiration of which the introduction of Chinamen into the island was prohibited.

"SLAVE-TRADERS DEFYING THE GOVERNMENT.

"The slave-traders of this city took umbrage, repaired at once to Madrid, and effected an annulment of the obnoxious decree. They did more. To show how completely they spurned the home Government and any attempted interference by it, in any matter in which their material interests were at stake, they organised here a new company called La Sociedad de Hacendados, purposely for the introduction of Chinese labourers into the island. The capital of the company is 2,000,000 dols. in shares of 10,000 dols each, of which one-half was paid up, thus forming a working capital of 1,000,000 dols. and a reserve fund of another million. The principal stockholders are the old slave-traders of this place, and include Julian Zulueta, José Baro, Marques de Campo

Florida, Juan Poey, and others. The Chinese imported by this company are, similarly to those brought by the Alianza, engaged to serve at 4.25 dols. per month for eight years, at any work at which the holder of their contract, which is transferable, may choose to set them.

"VALMASEDA'S EDICT.

"Of course the whole object of any Chinaman who voluntarily leaves his country is to hoard out of his wages a sufficient capital with which to return. A monthly wage of four and a quarter dols. is an enormous one to the imagination of a Chinaman in China. When once in Cuba, he finds that after his time, when he may be absolutely incapacitated from labour by overwork, is deducted from his pay, he has but little to receive, and of course in a country where every magistrate is, or would like to be, a slave-owner, he has no recourse at law.

"Valmaseda's infamous edict took away even the very meagre hope that the Chinaman may have had under the former régime of a possible termination of his state of slavery. Before Valmaseda's proclamation, a Chinaman might possibly, by good health, good luck, and great economy, amass during his term of servitude a small capital sufficient to enable him in the country to take up and cultivate a small piece of land, or in the cities to start some small retail or manufacturing business, such as cooperage, cigar and cigarette making, &c.

"THE ROBBERY OF THE COOLIES.

"Valmaseda's edict in fact surprised not a few Chinamen in this city, who by industry and economy had amassed considerable property. These, of course, were blackmailed, some of them to the sum of one and even two thousand dols. apiece, as a price for their liberty. Several of the Chinamen, after having been thus robbed of their savings of years of industry and economy, took passage to your city, on their road to their own country.

"By Valmaseda's law every Chinaman at the expiration of his contracted term of servitude is obliged to re-contract his services for a term of eight further years; and as the law makes no provision for his liberation at the expiration even of his second, or forcibly re-contracted term, his slavery is

"TERMINABLE ONLY WITH HIS LIFE.

"The penalty for not re-contracting is that he is, without further proof required than that his first term has expired, and that he cannot furnish a contract by which to prove that he has re-indentured himself, to become a slave for life to the Government. In the latter case he is at once put to hard labour in the chain gang, in the stone quarries, or elsewhere.

"Of course, in no country under the sun except in Cuba could such a scandalous law have been enacted. But in Cuba the Captain-General is invested with unlimited power, and by his sole word can annul any law of the home Government, emanating either from the King or from the Cortes; and this fact is of itself

sufficient to prove the absurdity of influencing the Madrid Government to comply with the demands of the civilisation of the age. The Madrid Cabinet will yield or not to outside pressure, as the case may be, but when a man like Valmaseda can, by a single stroke of his pen,

"ENSLAVE THOUSANDS OF FREE MEN,

as he has done in the island, and appropriate their property to his own use or that of his partners in villany, as he has done in this city, it is surely time, if not for foreign intervention in behalf of humanity, at least to cease the farce of appealing to a power which has ceded its right to remedy the evil complained of.

"I observe by the papers of this city (the expected arrival of these cargoes of slaves is obliged by law to be advertised, and only in this advertisement does the traffic differ from the African slave-trade) that four cargoes of these unfortunate Chinamen, who, when once landed in Cuba, are doomed to slavery for life, are shortly expected here. The cargoes of the four vessels comprise 1,900 human beings, of whom the Alianza owns and offers for sale 850, and the company of Hacendados 950. I respectfully call the attention of the abolitionists of America to the matter.

"R."

EXTRACT of a letter, dated March 2nd, 1872, on the state of Cuba in reference to Spanish authority in the island :—

"General Crespo, who was acting for the Captain-General in his absence from Havanna in the revolutionary districts, has arrived in Madrid, and has published a defence of his conduct in reference to the massacre of the Madrid students.

"We have not seen the document, but are informed that—

"1. He says, firstly, that it is convenient for the national honour and his private honour to be defended.

"2. That a colonel of the Volunteers came to him to ask him, in the name of the Volunteers, that the forty-four students should be immediately executed, and that every suspected Cuban should be tried; that is, that hundreds and thousands should be killed.

"3. That a vessel should be sent to the Isle of Pines, where many wealthy Cubans have been exiled; that they should be put under martial law, which, of course, means that they should be killed.

"4. The General confesses that only in the Reign of Terror in France could be found a proposition so bloody. That if he had not consented to execute eight students, the whole forty-four would have been assassinated, and that the blood of many others would have run in fearful and terrible abundance."

STATE OF THINGS IN CUBA—NUMBER OF SOLDIERS KILLED IN CUBA—THE GOVERNMENT WORKING SLAVES WHO HAVE BEEN DECLARED FREE.

We insert the following extract of a letter from Spain, dated March 7, 1872 :—

"It is difficult to obtain exact information, as the Government here keeps everything to itself, and the pro-slavery party in Cuba does the same thing. With regard to the number of soldiers sent out to Cuba we have, however, a good authority in Senor Moret. In the Circo, where 12,000 people were present, and most of the ministers of the Revolution Moret y Prendergast, the ex-Minister of the Colonies, declared in his speech that the number of soldiers sent out from Spain to Cuba since the revolution was 110,000. The meeting took place on the 2nd of January; Senor Zorilla in the chair. The number killed in battle and by sickness is calculated at near 50,000. The Cuban losses cannot be ascertained in Madrid, but they probably greatly exceed those of the pro-slavery Spanish party.

"The administration in Cuba is working the slaves of the insurgents, although they were declared free, both by the Cortes and by the Cuban owners. They are working them for the benefit of the Government, and have made in one year a profit of 15,900,000 reals (£159,000)."

SINCE the issue of our last number, matters in Cuba have, if anything, grown worse, and the struggle between slavery and liberty is more deadly.

MORE TROOPS ARE SENT TO CUBA.

It has been decided at Madrid to send 30,000 more troops to fight against the Cubans. The Spaniards have sacrificed tens of thousands of their best men in this fearful contest. They also maintain from 50,000 to 60,000 volunteers out of the various cities of the island, who have proved themselves to be undisciplined, irresponsible, and bloodthirsty. They defy the government at home, and, under the name of order, are a terror in the island. These men, to whom the slave-trade is the breath of life, after expelling a governor who did not shed blood fast enough for them, have virtually taken upon themselves to administer the government, altering or suppressing the laws, as they at the moment determine—and are resolved at any sacrifice and cost to uphold slavery.

VALMASEDA'S NEW PROCLAMATION.

INTELLIGENCE from Cuba indicates that the Captain-General Valmaseda has become tired of the slowness with which the insurgent Cubans apply for pardon. He has consequently issued a proclamation, in which he says the

offer of pardon cannot continue for ever; that every insurgent captured after January 15 will be shot; that those surrendering after that date will be condemned to perpetual imprisonment; and that negroes will be treated the same as whites. *Negro women captured are to be delivered to their owners, and will be compelled to wear a chain four years; while captured white women are to be banished from the country.* This proclamation is a concession to those bloodthirsty people, the Spanish volunteers, who have been clamouring for more rigorous measures.

THE following extracts of a letter in the *New York Sun*, dated Feb. 24, 1872, on Cuba, will be read with interest:—

"HAVANA, Feb. 24.—Of war news since my last I can give you little. Here nobody dares speak about it. The slave-traders and the wealthy men who are fooling their poor tools, the rank and file of the Volunteers, have not been able to smother a few facts, however. For instance, Colonel Caratero, of the famous Santander regiment, left for Spain a few days ago. He came here from Manzanillo badly wounded. He positively refused to see Valmaseda, his Secretary Araistegui, or any of the colonels of the Volunteer regiments, but he did see and speak openly to very many officers of the regular army; and his talk was not at all satisfactory to the men who pretend to rule the situation. He said that his regiment volunteered solely for garrison duty,

"TO SUPPRESS THE VOLUNTEERS, and that that was his distinct understanding with King Amadeus personally; that in direct violation of this plighted royal word, he and his men had been hurried off to the field of battle, and that the best proof that the insurrection was alive could be furnished by the fact that in a fight with General Modesto Diaz, near Manzanillo, his regiment (the celebrated Santander regiment of Spanish regulars) lost 482 men in killed and wounded. Colonel Caratero stated on leaving, that his only hope was to reach Spain alive, where he would publish broadcast through the Peninsula such facts as would prevent any more of his countrymen from being beguiled to their deaths by the statements of the cowardly slave-traders.

"THE POOR STUDENTS.

"It is known in well-informed circles here that some seventy Spanish representatives in Madrid lately waited upon King Amadeus with unequivocal proofs of the innocence of the young students condemned to the chain-gang. The King at once, without leaving the Council Chamber, sent a telegram to this city instructing Count Valmaseda, or in his absence his representative, to release the students at once. Valmaseda acknowledges the receipt of the order, but declares that he hesitates to

comply with it, because he is certain that the lads if released would be murdered by the Volunteers.

"A report is current that General Maximo Gomez has gained an important victory over the Spaniards in the jurisdiction of Guantamano, and that he is now advancing upon Santiago."

PRESIDENT GRANT ON CUBA.

THE President, in his third Annual Message to the Senate and House of Representatives, refers to Cuba and Slavery in the following words:—

"It is a subject for regret that the reforms in this direction, which were voluntarily promised by the statesmen of Spain, have not been carried out in its West Indian colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico leave most of the labourers in bondage with no hope of release until their lives become a burden to their employers.

"I desire to direct your attention to the fact that citizens of the United States, or persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, are large holders in foreign lands of this species of property, forbidden by the fundamental law of their alleged country. I recommend to Congress to provide, by stringent legislation, a suitable remedy against the holding, owning, or dealing in slaves, or being interested in slave property in foreign lands, either as owners, hirers, or mortgagees, by citizens of the United States."

Sentiments so noble, uttered by the Chief Magistrate of the United States at the assembling of the Legislature, are worthy of all commendation, and have been received with grateful appreciation by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

THE CUBAN EXILES IN JAMAICA.

A LARGE number of women and children have been banished from Cuba and landed in Jamaica in a state of the most deplorable destitution. They have been sent from time to time in vessels on deck with no protection from the sun or weather, and with no instructions to the captains except to land them anywhere on the shores of Jamaica.

An active Committee has been formed in Jamaica for their relief, on behalf of which the esteemed missionary, the Rev. J. M. Phillipo, has sent an urgent plea to this country for assistance.

Towards the relief of these distressed people the following amounts have been kindly contributed and have been remitted to Jamaica.

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received by Joseph Cooper, Walthamstow.

	£	s.	d.
Edward Pease	5	0	0
Thomas Harvey	10	0	0
Robert Charleton	10	0	0
Joseph Cooper	5	0	0
Sidney Cooper	5	0	0
Alfred Rosling	5	0	0
Samuel Rosling	3	0	0
Rachael Forster	5	0	0
Francis Brown	5	0	0
Frederick Seeböhm	5	0	0
George Sturge	5	0	0
Lydia Harris	5	0	0
William Peckover	5	0	0
Joseph Huntley	3	0	0
Deborah Gibson	10	0	0
Stafford Allen	10	0	0
William Allen	2	2	0
George Kitching	2	0	0
Edward Backhouse	5	0	0
William Bryant	5	0	0
Joseph Firth	5	0	0
Henry Harris	5	0	0
Thomas Binns	10	0	0
Elizabeth Thomas	5	0	0
Henry Pease	5	0	0
John Phillips	1	1	0
George Stacey Gibson	5	0	0
James Cropper	5	0	0
Robert Were Fox	2	0	0
William Ball	5	0	0
John Marsh	3	0	0
John Cropper	10	0	0
Edward P. Southall	5	0	0
M. M. Monro	2	2	0
Richard Allen	5	0	0
Mary Anna Pease	5	0	0
John B. Pease	5	0	0
John Horniman	5	0	0
William Brewin	5	0	0
Algernon Peckover	5	0	0
R. Forster and Sisters	5	0	0
Arthur Pease	5	0	0
George Palmer	5	0	0

THE EAST AFRICAN SLAVE-TRADE.

MEETING AT SURREY CHAPEL.

IN lieu of the usual Monday evening lecture at Surrey Chapel, a meeting was held this week on the above subject, to hear statements, and to consider what means could be taken to put a stop to this barbarous traffic in human beings on the east coast of Africa.

Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., presided, and on the platform were Sir Bartle Frere, K.S.I. (late Governor of Bombay), the Rev. Horace Waller (formerly of the Central African Mission, and fellow-traveller with Dr. Livingstone), Mr. Edmund Sturge, the Rev. Newman Hall, Rev. B. Millard (Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society), &c.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, remarked that, although England had spent

many millions in the suppression of the slave-trade on the west coast of Africa, still the practice was carried on to a very large extent on the eastern coast, and at an enormous sacrifice of life. They had official documents with reference to these atrocities, so that there was no disputation of the facts. At least 20,000 slaves were annually shipped from Africa to the Island of Zanzibar, the governor of which place received two dollars a head for every slave imported, thus legalising this inhuman traffic. Dr. Livingstone, when he visited this part of Africa some years ago, had endeavoured to suppress this traffic as far as he was able, but with very little success. It was computed that, owing to the barbarities committed by the slave-dealers in conveying their captives from the interior to the coast, at least ten deaths occurred for every one that reached the coast alive. Many persons averred that it was not our business to try to put a stop to every evil that existed on the face of the earth; but he stated that it was his belief that it was the duty and for the benefit of England to put down this slavery. He stated that since slavery was abolished on the other side of Africa our trade with that place amounted to over a million a year. England was interested in the affairs of Zanzibar, had often mediated in her quarrels with neighbouring States, and had at times protected her merchants from the depredations of pirates. He, therefore, had no doubt that if England could put down this slave-trade there our commercial relations would be greatly improved, as they had been on the west coast.

Sir BARTLE FRERE deeply lamented that England treated this matter with such apathy and indifference. Some years ago, when he left England to assume his duties in India, the question of the suppression of slavery in West Africa was largely occupying the attention of all classes in England, and they all knew how successfully we had grappled with that evil. *The fact was that the originators of that movement had died, and their successors had not entered into the spirit of the work with sufficient energy.* He was sorry to say that we had greatly accelerated this slave-trade in the stoppage which we put to the legitimate trade and commerce which existed a century or so ago between this part and India and other places. He then referred to the statement that these slaves were inferior and debased, and that they could not be improved in their condition. He had, however, seen enough in the negro race to convince him that it was entirely an erroneous idea. He concluded by stating that this slave-trade was being carried on at the present day more extensively than ever.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER stated that he had that day received letters from Dr. Kirk, our consul, but no news had been obtained of Dr. Livingstone. He, however, believed that the doctor would eventually come back in safety. He mentioned that when he accompanied Dr. Livingstone some years ago up the Zambesi, to endeavour to stop this traffic, the

country was then in a most flourishing condition: villages were seen every half-mile or so, the fields were covered with corn, flocks were seen everywhere, and prosperity reigned all around. But what a change had now taken place. As soon as the Portuguese opened up this slave-trade, desolation became apparent. They first brought calico and beads, and he (Mr. Waller) had often seen women and children sold for two yards of calico a piece (worth 5d. a yard). But these Portuguese, thinking they could get their slaves for nothing, began to stir up strife between the different tribes, and the consequence was that wars raged everywhere, desolation and distress existed, owing to agriculture being stopped, and so the poor creatures were often sent into slavery for the exchange of a handful of corn. He referred to the cruelties inflicted upon these slaves. One morning Dr. Livingstone's party were at breakfast, when the speaker happened to observe a party of these slaves being marched down to the coast. He called the doctor's attention to it, and asked him what he would do. The doctor told his party to lay aside their arms, and surround the slave-dealers. This was done; the Portuguese easily surrendered; and they soon found themselves in possession of eighty or ninety slaves, who were in a fearful condition. Around their necks were placed large pieces of wood, weighing between twenty and thirty pounds each, and under this load they had had to march a long distance, with very little food. The doctor at once ordered that these yokes should be transferred to the necks of the dealers, while the poor creatures were set at liberty. Another instance he mentioned of a party of slaves who were being taken to the coast, when one of the children became ill, and could not proceed, when the dealer in command immediately dashed its brains out on the ground. He stated that Dr. Kirk, in his letter, told him that this traffic was being carried on worse than ever when he wrote (December, 1871).

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL stated that it required the people to take up this question, and impress upon Parliament the necessity of undertaking the suppression of the slave-trade. He was certain that whatever opinion a few might entertain with regard to slavery, the masses of the English people entertained a profound hatred for the evil.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.—*South London Press.*

MADAGASCAR.

THE Christian portion of the world has of late years been much gratified with the progress of the Gospel in this interesting island. There are, however, some great evils yet to be removed; among which we reckon slavery and the slave-trade.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.

Treaties were entered into between the Queens of Great Britain and Madagascar,

June 20th, 1865, by which it is stipulated that the Queen of Madagascar engages to do all in her power to prevent the slave-traffic on the part of her subjects, and the Queen of Great Britain is invested with the right of search and dealing with slave-traders as with pirates.

From evidence tendered to the Committee on the Slave-trade on the East Coast of Africa, we are pained to see it stated that the slave-trade to Madagascar is still carried on. For instance, on July 13th, 1871, the Honorable Crespigny Vivian says:—

"Q. 173. In describing the slave-trade that is carried on on the African coast, I said nothing about the slave-trade with Madagascar. There is a constant slave-trade with that island from the southern parts of Zanzibar, and though it goes on in dribblets, it is still permanent."

Mr. Henry Adrian Church-Hill, C.B., who was more than two years consul at Zanzibar, in answer to Question 313, "Are any of the slaves destined for Madagascar," replies:—

"To some extent they are. Those taken from the southern part of the dominions of the Sultan, namely, from Kilwa to the south towards Cape Delgado, and even from the Portuguese territory, are carried to Madagascar."

Major-General Rigby states:—

"Q. 586. The chief point with regard to the squadron is to have an experienced naval officer in a permanent appointment there, who should have a command or supervision over the whole east coast, embracing the Mozambique and Madagascar coast, where there is a very large and increasing slave-trade going on now."

"Q. 626. . . . They have begun to import slaves into Madagascar very largely, in order to cultivate their rich land."

Captain Colomb says:—

"Q. 1310. I should like to mention that there is still a trade to Madagascar, which is still in a more or less flourishing state; though we have suppressed it to a considerable extent by the treaty with Madagascar, there is still a regular trade from the southern part of Africa which does not pass through Zanzibar at all."

This evidence proves that the slave-trade is still carried on more or less by parties in Madagascar, and it is to be hoped that energetic measures will be adopted by the Queen's Government to put an end to it.

SLAVERY IN THE ISLAND.

Some time ago the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society addressed the Government of Madagascar on the subject of slavery, and we trust that as the influence of the Gospel prevails the "powers that be" will yet see it to be their

duty, as they may become able, to remove this great sin from among them. The following extracts of a letter from a devoted missionary, dated November 11th, 1871, show how sad are the influences and wide is the extent of this evil. Speaking of the return of Dr. Davidson to England, he says:—

"The Doctor takes two of his native students with him, hoping they will be able to complete their medical education in Edinburgh under the oversight of Dr. Burns Thompson. In the elder of these boys I have long felt more than an ordinary interest, partly because of his superior abilities, and partly because of his difficult position in relation to the Malagasy Government. He has been under the Doctor's tuition nearly ever since he came to this country, and has made such proficiency in his studies as to make him a very valuable person for an upper slave, or 'dekana.' Hitherto we have been able to keep him from 'fanompoana'; but, in the absence both of the Doctor and myself, he would be seized by some of his superiors in rank, would probably be made a nurse for some of the children of the great people, and any amount of unrequited service extorted from him which his master might choose to demand. It is difficult for a person who has never lived in this country to conceive of the paralysing influence of slavery in its different forms on the prosperity of the nation."

He then enlarges at considerable length and with great earnestness on the evils of this system of slavery, and thinks it would astonish Friends in England to know what is being carried on by (or with the sanction of) the professedly Christian Government of Madagascar. But it is to a deeply-rooted vicious system, long fixed in the institutions of the country, rather than to the policy of the present rulers, that these evils would appear to be traceable; for the missionary adds: "Yet it is probable that the Malagasy have never had so good a Government as they at present enjoy, nor a Prime Minister whose policy in general has so largely contributed to the public good."

SLAVERY IN BRAZIL.

INTERVIEW OF A DEPUTATION FROM THE FRENCH ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY WITH THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL.

In the last number of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* we stated, that though a law had been enacted by the Brazilian Legislature professedly to abolish slavery, yet its provisions were most unsatisfactory, and under its sanction slavery would continue for an indefinite time. Our honoured colleagues in France sympathise in these views; and a deputation of the French Anti-Slavery

Society, consisting of the Duc de Broglie, M. de Laboulaye, M. de Pressensé, and M. Cochin, obtained an interview with His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil. After congratulating the Emperor on his enlightened views, and his warm sympathy with liberty, they respectfully pointed out the deficiencies and dangers of the law relating to slavery lately passed by the Legislature of Brazil, urging him to go forward in the great work of emancipation. In reply, His Majesty assured them of his desire to do all in his power as a constitutional monarch to promote the good of the people in Brazil, and encouraged the members of the deputation to continue their efforts to expose the evils of slavery.

REGISTRATION OF ALL SLAVES IN BRAZIL.

The *Anglo-Brazilian Times* of December 23, 1871, says:—

"By decree issued on the 12th of December the registration of all the slaves in the empire is ordered to be made between the 1st of April, 1872, and the 30th of September, 1872, after which last date registrations may still be made during the twelvemonths following on payment of the double fee, 1,000 dollars. From September 30th, 1873, all slaves unregistered will be considered *ipso facto* free, unless the owners establish, by a suit, that the fault or omission was not theirs. After September 30th, 1872, proof of registration will be requisite in every suit or transaction affecting slaves, including passports. Manumissions, departures from the municipality, transference of ownership, and deaths of slaves will have to be reported within three months, and will be noted in the Register; and all changes of residence will have to be notified to the Registrar of the new municipality.

"The same regulation provides for the registration of all the children of slave women, freeborn by virtue of the law of September 28th, 1871. All born previous to the beginning of 1872 will have to be registered in May, 1872, and after that date within three months from birth. All deaths among them have also to be reported for registration. The provisions for the maintenance of a correct register are enforced by various penalties, from 10 to 200 dollars in each case of neglect or fraud, besides, in the latter case, the penalties for attempts to reduce a free person to slavery."

INDIVIDUAL CASES OF FREEDOM GIVEN IN BRAZIL.

It is with pleasure that we record the cases of freedom given, and efforts made to promote emancipation by persons in Brazil. The *Anglo-Brazilian* of December 23rd and January 22nd reports that—

"At Ceara, on the Emperor's birthday anniversary, thirty-five slave girls received their

letters of manumission from the president's hands.

"H.M. the Empress-Dowager of Brazil has freed the 140 slaves upon her plantation of Macacos, recently sold, and has provided for the support of the infirm and aged among them.

"At Maceio a meeting, convoked by the president, was held to treat of emancipation societies and of asylums for free children of slave mothers; of immigration; and of the means for the general diffusion of primary education throughout the province. Committees were appointed to consider and report upon these subjects.

"In Rio Grande do Norte, on the same day, a society was inaugurated for the promotion of emancipations, and for taking charge of children freed by the Act of September 27th. Four emancipations were effected at the inauguration.

"In San Paulo, at San Roque, Commendador A. J. da Rosa, one of the San Paulo deputies who voted for the Slavery Act of September 28th, 1871, freed, on the 8th, eleven slaves and gave a grand ball on the marriage of one of them—his henchman—upon the same day."

NO MORE SLAVES IN SIAM.

EVERY philanthropist will rejoice to learn that according to the edict of The King, slavery, which was a recognised institution in the country, ceased to exist in Siam on January 1, 1872. This country, lying between Assam and Pegu, having about 250,000 square miles, and a population of 11,000,000 persons, is feudal in its government, similar to that of Japan.

"No more slaves in Siam. No more little children to be torn from their mother's arms, to pay her own or her husband's gambling debts; no more long lines of foreign captives wearing the badge of slavery, because, by the fortunes of war, the armies of their country were vanquished; no more of God's creatures dragged from their humble homes, and sold into perpetual slavery, because by sickness, misfortune, or improvidence, they had become too poor to pay their debts. All this and more, of the terrible workings of legalised slavery, have I seen enacted again and again, in Bangkok, the proud metropolis of wealthy and populous Siam. About two miles below the city, on the Meinam river, is a village, occupied wholly by Burmese prisoners of war and their descendants, who have hitherto been held as slaves by the Siamese Government. They speak their own language, and follow, in a measure, the customs of their native country; but all the males are required to spend twenty days of each month in hard labour, on the king's war-boats, the roads, or other public

works. They have been obliged to walk from two to four miles every morning, carrying their heavy tools on their shoulders, and to return with them at sunset, in the same way. For this severe labour they have been allowed a mere pittance, barely enough to supply themselves with the coarsest food, while their wives and children have had to earn their own subsistence as they could. Many have died, and some grown grey in captivity, and their little ones been born to the same wretched inheritance, the boys being compelled, as soon as they were grown, to do service as the king's slaves, while the girls, with the vice and hopelessness engendered by such a condition, have been very often sold by their own parents for debt, or to obtain the means of living in idleness. As slaves, they had no recognised rights; and so ground down have they been by poverty and extortion, that their very minds and souls have seemed enthralled by a like bondage, till scarcely regarded by either themselves or their taskmasters as responsible beings. *All these are now free*, slaves no longer, but men, free to go and come as they will, provide for their families, and dwell with them in peace. Henceforth prisoners of war are to be held only as such until exchanged or otherwise disposed of in a liberal and equitable manner."—*The Advance*.

CAPTAIN COATES, OF THE JASON,

CONVICTED OF KIDNAPPING SOUTH-SEA ISLANDERS, AND PUNISHED.

WE are repeatedly assured by Queensland planters that the hands brought to them from New Hebrides and other islands are not kidnapped, or unfairly obtained. The evidence however that a real slave-trade is carried on for the Queensland labour market is overwhelming, and, through the energetic and praiseworthy efforts of the friends of human liberty in Brisbane, one of the numerous kidnapping captains has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, without hard labour, and a fine of £50; to be kept in custody until the penalty is discharged. The trial took place before Judge Lutwyche, who reserved certain points for the consideration of the full Court. These were subsequently argued and determined on, when the Judges confirmed the sentence already pronounced. We shall be glad to learn that other captains who have been engaged in this disgraceful work of kidnapping natives will cease to pursue their shameful course any longer.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30th, 1872.

AUGUSTIN COCHIN.

A TELEGRAM from Versailles, published in the London papers of the 18th March, announced the decease there, on the 16th, of M. Augustin Cochin, Prefect of the Seine-et-Oise.

The deceased gentleman was a most zealous and sincere friend to the anti-slavery cause, and the author of numerous papers and essays and articles upon the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade. His most considerable work was "L'Histoire de l'Abolition de l'Esclavage," which though disfigured by certain inaccuracies of detail, especially in relation to the labour question in the French colonies, and to the part which the French Republican party took in 1848 in obtaining emancipation, is nevertheless a highly valuable contribution to anti-slavery literature.

M. Cochin was a corresponding member of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and an active member of the Committee of the International Anti-Slavery Conference, held in Paris in August, 1867, to the labours of which—though then scarcely recovered from a severe illness—he gave much time and attention. He was a most valuable co-adjutor in the promotion of the work left to the Standing Committee or Bureau of that Conference to carry out, and one of his last acts in connection with it was to get up a deputation to wait upon the Emperor of Brazil, when in Paris last year, to urge him to promote immediate abolition by a measure superseding the unsatisfactory bill passed by his Government during his absence, and sanctioned by the Regent.

M. Cochin also took a leading part in the movement set on foot in France for the raising of funds in aid of the Freedmen of the United States, and by his articles in the *Journal des Débats*, and other papers and periodicals, largely contributed to the enlightenment of the French public on the subject of the war between the Northern and the Southern States of the American Union.

One of the latest of M. Cochin's public anti-slavery utterances was against the East African slave-trade.

His decease deprives the anti-slavery cause of a staunch advocate in France.

THE LATE JOSEPH PEASE, ESQ.

At a meeting of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, held at their office, 27, New Broad Street, London, on Friday, the 1st March, 1872, the following minute was unanimously passed:—

"This Committee deeply regret to have to record the decease of their much esteemed friend Joseph Pease, which took place at his residence, Southend, Darlington, on the 8th ultimo.

"A warm friend of the poor and oppressed, wherever found, he took a peculiar interest in the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade throughout the world.

"During the struggle for the abolition of the apprenticeship system in the British Colonies, at a time when some of the leading abolitionists of this country held back for want of faith, Joseph Pease stood forth in his place in Parliament the advocate of the immediate and total abolition of a system which was found to be but slavery under another name.

"Through a long course of years he was one of the most liberal contributors to the funds of the Anti-Slavery Society, which had at all times his sympathy and most cordial support.

"In comparatively recent times, when at the conclusion of the civil war in the United States of America, millions of slaves were set at liberty who had previously been kept in the grossest darkness, he took the deepest interest in their condition, and warmly supported the exertions then made to bring that injured people to light, liberty, and the knowledge of the Gospel.

"The Committee offer their sincere condolence to the various members of the bereaved family.

"Whilst, in common with the friends of humanity everywhere, they will long mourn their loss, they will doubtlessly rejoice in the remembrance of a life so eminently consecrated to the service of Christ; the love of whom was the ground and spring of his services to his fellow-men. Of him it may be truly said, that from love to God, sprang love to all mankind."

To this minute the following reply has been sent:—

"18, Princes Gardens, W.,
March 7th, 1872.

"GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge, by the hand of my friend Joseph Cooper, Esq., the receipt of your minute of the 1st of March last. In this minute you most kindly allude to the interest which my honoured father, Mr. Joseph Pease, took in the abolition of slavery and the slave-trade throughout the world.

"Those who, like yourselves, have laboured as earnestly and as successfully in this great movement, can alone appreciate the feelings with which he looked back upon that portion of his life which had been spent in co-operation

with you in removing, or endeavouring to remove, this great curse to mankind.

"I can assure you that your minute and the expression of kind sympathy which it contains, are received very gratefully by his family; and most cordially do they acknowledge that part in particular in which you allude to the fact, that the ground of his services to his fellow-men sprung from that love to God which was begotten in his heart by the feeling that God had first loved him.

"Believe me to be,

"Yours very respectfully,

"J. W. PEASE."

"To the Committee of the British
and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, London."

THE PACIFIC ISLANDERS PROTECTION BILL.

IN accordance with the promise in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the Parliament, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen has submitted to the House "A Bill for the Prevention and Punishment of Criminal Outrages upon Natives of the Islands in the Pacific Ocean." It provides that any British subject shall be deemed guilty of felony who (1) decoys, by force or fraud, any native on board ship for the purpose of conveying him elsewhere; (2) ships, embarks, receives, detains, or confines, for the purpose aforesaid, any native without his consent—proof of which consent shall lie on the party accused; (3) contracts for doing any of the above acts without consent of the native; (4) fits out, mans, navigates, equips, uses, employs, lets, or takes freight, or hires, or commands, serves or is on board with intent to commit any of the offences named; or (5) ships, or receives on board, money, goods or articles to the intent that they may be employed in the commission of any of the offences enumerated. The bill authorises courts in Australia to issue commissions to examine witnesses, and empowers a Governor in Council to authorise the commander of any of Her Majesty's ships, or of any other ship, to secure the attendance of any natives as witnesses. It also permits certain officers to seize and bring in for adjudication any British vessel suspected of being employed in kidnapping.

The measure is conceived in a liberal spirit, and is designed to put an end to the outrages which have been perpetrated in the South Seas. There are, however, several additions required to make the bill an efficient one, and to prevent the improper deportation of natives. The bill should provide effective *machinery* to carry out the object desired. It should empower *consuls*, as well as other officers, to seize vessels suspected of being engaged in kidnapping, and provision should be made

to protect and support natives during the trial of the party accused of having unlawfully secured them, and to restore them to the island whence they are proved to have been decoyed.

The bill was to have been discussed and some amendments considered on Thursday evening, March 21st. Other business, however, prevented the measure being dealt with, and it will lie over till after the Easter recess, when, we hope, it will be considerably perfected.

Without entering on the question of the voluntary emigration of South Sea islanders into Queensland or elsewhere, we think that, under any circumstances, no native labourer should be allowed to be introduced under contract, except in vessels specially assigned by Government, having agents appointed by the *Imperial* Legislature, who alone should be permitted to engage natives through properly qualified interpreters.

POLYNESIAN KIDNAPPING.

DEPUTATION TO LORD KIMBERLEY.

A DEPUTATION waited upon the Earl of Kimberley, at the Colonial Office, to urge upon the Government the necessity of adopting immediate and energetic measures for the suppression of the system of kidnapping men going on in the South Pacific Islands, for the purpose of supplying coolie labour to Queensland and the other Australian colonies. The deputation consisted of the following gentlemen:—The Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., Mr. T. Hughes, M.P., Mr. E. B. Eastwick, M.P., Mr. Edward Miall, M.P., Mr. R. N. Fowler, M.P., Mr. W. McArthur, M.P., Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., Mr. A. Johnston, M.P., Mr. Macfie, M.P.; the Rev. William Gill and Mr. W. Blomfield, of the London Missionary Society; the Rev. T. Perks, of the Wesleyan Missionary Society; the Rev. John Kay, of the Scottish Reformed Presbyterian Mission; Mr. Edmund Sturge and the Rev. B. Millard, of the Anti-Slavery Society; Mr. F. W. Chesson, Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Society; Dr. Underhill, Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society; Professor Sheldon Amos, Mr. Stafford Allen, Mr. C. H. Hopwood, Mr. G. L. Neighbour, Mr. S. Gurney, Major Evans Bell, Mr. Y. I. Murrow, of Hong-Kong, &c. The deputation was introduced by Mr. Kinnaird, who expressed the gratification of himself and friends that the subject was considered of such importance by Ministers that it was referred to in the Queen's Speech; but what he wished to impress upon his lordship was the need of immediate legislative action. *The deputation did not believe in the possibility of regulating the traffic satisfactorily, in consequence of the many different languages spoken by the natives of the widely-scattered islands in question, the difficulty of making them understand the form of contract, or the meaning of binding them.*

selves to work for a term of three years. *Nothing short of suppression would be effective.* In conclusion, he laid before his lordship a memorial, in which the views of the various bodies represented by the deputation were enforced; and the Government were further urged to invite the co-operation of France, Germany, and the United States, to prevent the abuse of their flags as well as our own. Mr. Eastwick, M.P., believed that, besides legislation making this new description of slave-trade piracy, the establishment of prize courts in the vicinity of the islands where the practices complained of were carried on, the employment of gunboats, the strengthening of our consular staff, and the co-operation of other Powers would be necessary. The Rev. J. Kay traced the murder of Bishop Patteson to the hostility created by the traffic in the mind of the natives, and said that, unless it was put an end to, it would be necessary to withdraw the missionaries from the New Hebrides Islands altogether. Mr. Sturge, who represented the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, stated that the evils now to be deplored might, to a large measure, have been prevented, had the Colonial Office given the representations of the *Anti-Slavery Society due consideration.* So long ago as on March 13th, 1868, they sent a memorial on this new slave-trade to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. On May 23rd, 1868, June 4, July 29, and Nov. 25, 1869, they continued to submit further correspondence to the Colonial Office, urging suitable action. Mr. Sturge further expressed his fears lest a new species of slave-trade would spring up in connection with the Natal colony. Last year the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society had ventured to address the Lieut.-Governor of Natal on the importation of labourers from Delagoa Bay and other places on the East Coast of Africa into Natal, and from the reply of His Excellency's secretary, received yesterday, he felt there was need to watch this matter there. The Rev. W. Gill and Mr. Jenkyns having addressed his lordship, Lord Kimberley stated that the subject had already been considered by the Government, and that a bill would be introduced that evening to give effect to the paragraph in the Queen's Speech in reference to it, and providing that kidnapping should be regarded as felony, and punished as such. Although he could not hold out hopes that the measures contemplated would amount to the total suppression of coolie immigration, the Government felt it an absolute duty to take care that British subjects and British ships should be clear of these charges of kidnapping, and he doubted not that Lord Granville would think it his duty to make representations with the view of obtaining the co-operation of foreign Governments. He differed from the deputation as to the impossibility of regulating the traffic, and in this opinion he was confirmed by the high authority of the late Bishop Patteson himself, who, in 1870, had recommended regulation and not suppression. As to the employment of a ship or ships of war to

enforce regulations, it was satisfactory to say that one ship had been despatched to reinforce the Australasian squadron, and it was intended to send a second, in order to enable the Commodore to take the necessary steps for enforcing such regulations as might be laid down. The Government also agreed with the memorialists that it would be advisable to have a small vessel of war constantly stationed in the neighbourhood of Fiji; but looking at the extent over which the islands were scattered, the great number of them, and the innumerable creeks and harbours, it would be difficult to maintain a force at them all. As to the courts at which such offences should be tried, it was intended to carry all the cases to the supreme courts in the colonies. The several Australian Governments were quite disposed to co-operate in any steps calculated to deprive the employment of coolie labour of anything of a quasi slavery character. But, replying to an observation of one of the deputation, he added that in some sort or form the immigration of coolie labourers would go on, the demand for labour being beyond control; all the Government could hope to do was to regulate. The deputation then thanked his lordship, and retired.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE ON SOUTH SEA KIDNAPPING.

SINCE the issue of the last number of *The Anti-Slavery Reporter*, we have received a large number of letters, papers, and pamphlets, which show how extensively the system of kidnapping natives of the Polynesian Islands prevails—what evils are committed, and how absolutely necessary it is that energetic efforts should be put forth by all who hate slavery, under whatever name it may be carried on, to uproot this evil. It is matter for congratulation that public attention and sympathy are awakened, and that Government is at last constrained to act in the matter. Nothing less than the entire suppression, at present, of the trade, should be aimed at, and we record with pleasure

THE CONDEMNATION OF THE SOUTH SEA SLAVE-TRADE IN THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT.

"The slave-trade, and practices scarcely to be distinguished from slave-trading, still pursued in more than one quarter of the world, continue to attract the attention of my Government. In the South Sea Islands, the name of the British Empire is even now dishonoured by the connection of some of my subjects with these nefarious practices; and in one of them the murder of an exemplary prelate has cast fresh light upon some of their baneful consequences. A bill will be presented to you, for the purpose of facilitating the trial of offences of this class in Australasia; and endeavours will be made to increase, in other forms, the means of counteraction."

A MOVEMENT IN THE RIGHT QUARTER—A MEMORIAL FROM THE BRISBANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

WE rejoice to learn that a special general meeting of the Brisbane Municipal Council was held on December 13, 1871, when a memorial to Her Majesty the Queen on the subject of kidnapping South Sea Islanders, with the attendant barbarities of this traffic, was *unanimously adopted*. Instead of selecting one or two paragraphs, we prefer to give the memorial in full, as showing what are the views and sentiments of large numbers of the Queensland people on this subject.

"May it please Your Majesty—

"We, the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Brisbane, in the colony of Queensland, approach Your Majesty with renewed expressions of dutiful and respectful devotion to your person and government.

"Being fully assured of Your Majesty's gracious interest in matters affecting the well-being of your subjects in all parts of your extended empire, we desire, on behalf of the inhabitants of this city, to express to Your Majesty our unfeigned regret that the name of the colony of Queensland should have become associated with the nefarious practices of those persons connected with the labour traffic in the South Sea Islands.

"We crave, therefore, to represent to Your Majesty—

"That, from the first introduction of South Sea Islanders into Queensland, the great majority of the inhabitants of this colony have looked upon the system with undisguised dislike.

"That, from time to time, and chiefly in accordance with the wishes of Your Majesty's Government, attempts have been made by the authority of the Legislature and otherwise to regulate the said traffic in the South Seas.

"That, in 1867, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty advised Your Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies in the following terms:—

"My lords believe, from the reports of the officers, that these islanders are incapable of understanding the nature of a written contract with an employer; or that any of them would knowingly or willingly engage themselves to work far from their own country at all, or at any place near their own home, for more than a few months.

"My lords are also strongly impressed with the belief that whatever regulations may be made for the well-being and liberty of these people on their being brought nominally within reach of the laws and tribunals of Queensland, yet that no proper and efficient control can ever be exercised over the manner in which these people are obtained and placed on board ship. The task of their collection and shipment is, from the nature of the work, likely to fall into

the hands of an unscrupulous and mercenary set, who, under pretence of persuading the natives into making engagements as labourers for a term of years, would not hesitate to commit acts of kidnapping, piracy, and murder.

"Entertaining these views, my lords are unable to concur in any recommendation with regard to framing an Act of the colonial legislature for the regulation of the introduction of these people into the colony."

"That everything which has since happened in the South Seas has confirmed the anticipations of the Lords Commissioners then expressed.

"That murder, piracy, kidnapping, and other acts of violence and barbarity have been committed by British subjects who in many cases have proceeded to the Islands of the Pacific from Australian ports.

"That the British flag has thereby been dishonoured by men who are not worthy to be numbered among Your Majesty's Australian subjects.

"That we do verily declare that the great body of the people of this colony are free from the taint and corruption of this human traffic, and that they do indignantly disavow any complicity with the disreputable persons by whom it has been conducted.

"That, in order to develop the resources of this colony there is no necessity for the introduction of the said islanders; for the cultivation of the cotton plant, though at first conducted by planters with island labour, is now almost exclusively carried on by European immigrants who have arrived during the last ten years; that the said cultivation of cotton by European labour has become one of our established industries, and is now the mainstay of an extensive and prosperous district in the vicinity of Ipswich.

"That, in like manner, the cultivation of the sugar-cane, though still mainly carried on by coloured labour, is yet extensively and profitably conducted by European settlers who occupy and cultivate their own farms.

"That we believe the same method of cultivation and manufacture to be equally applicable to the whole of the colony as it is to the districts at present under cultivation.

"That the more northern portions of the colony have proved habitable and suitable to those European settlers who dig for gold or other minerals, or who prosecute those agricultural or pastoral pursuits and industries which prevail throughout the length and breadth of this continent.

"That the industrial method of organised coloured labour conducted by the large planters is justly considered to conflict with the industrial method of free labour as applied by European settlers, and is doubly objectionable when it is based on the wrong and robbery associated with the Polynesian 'recruiting' system.

"That the successful cultivation of sugar and cotton would not in itself be desirable if it could only be accomplished by the creation of a servile class; and that the existence of such a class is calculated to have a deteriorating in-

fluence on all our institutions, civil, religious, and political.

"That the colony of Queensland presents such manifest advantages as an ample field for European emigration that we believe it would be an ungrateful perversion of the gifts of nature if the virgin soil of this fertile region were to become subservient to the ignoble use of sustaining a form of virtual slavery.

"That the profitable result of industry, as applied to the occupation, cultivation, and improvement of the waste lands, is the chief attraction to the great mass of European emigrants who seek a home in a new country. These attractions we are desirous should not be in any way diminished, as they must inevitably be if facilities are afforded for the creation of an unassimilative class of planters depending for success upon the unintelligent labour of alien or semi-civilised races incapable of exercising the rights of citizenship, and unassociated with this as their adopted country.

"Therefore, for these several reasons, we do most respectfully and most earnestly pray,

"That, taking counsel of your well beloved and trusty advisers, by the exercise of your sovereign prerogative in vessels of war on the high seas, by entering into convention with the President of the United States of America, or with the rulers of any of the great maritime Powers, and by such other modes as may appear fitting to your faithful Lords and Commons, your most Gracious Majesty will cause such steps to be taken as will prove effectual for the suppression of all lawless acts of piracy, slaving, or kidnapping in the islands of the Pacific Ocean,

"And, as in duty bound, your Petitioners will ever pray."

CAPTAIN WHISH, OF OAKLANDS, ON KIDNAPPING.

WE are told that the presence of a Queensland Government agent on board a labour-seeking ship effectually prevents any use of fraud or force in securing natives to labour on the Queensland sugar and cotton plantations. In Mr. Micklejohn's case, however, we see how those agents who wish to be faithful in the discharge of their duties can be dealt with. Capt. Whish, in a long letter on the labour question, dated Oaklands, October 21st, 1871, refers to this case and says:—"I am quite aware that kidnapping may be called a breach of the law, just as murder is, or any other crime. And yet the use of fire-arms is not prohibited because poachers occasionally shoot gamekeepers. But this is not my view of the case. *Any approach to slavery is to be guarded against as a detestable and most insidious evil, and before any vessel hail from Queensland, should be classed together with such floating hells as the Dolores Ugarte, I for one would rather abandon*

any industry for which coloured labour is considered essential. I HAVE BEEN A STRENUOUS SUPPORTER OF POLYNESIAN LABOUR AS LONG AS I VERILY BELIEVED THAT ALL WAS FAIR AND SQUARE, BUT AS SOON AS I DISCOVER THAT EVEN THE PRESENCE OF A GOVERNMENT AGENT ON BOARD IS NO SECURITY AGAINST VIOLENCE, KIDNAPPING AND MURDER (IF NECESSARY), I SEE BUT ONE COURSE TO PURSUE TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SUCH ENORMITIES." We venture to commend these sentiments to all employers of labour in Queensland, and to the members of the Imperial Legislature, and soon we shall have to rejoice that the odious traffic, now so generally pursued, is completely suppressed.

PAMPHLET ON POLYNESIAN SLAVE-TRADE.

BY T. HARVEY.

SEVERAL pamphlets have been published of late on the Pacific Slave-trade. Among these we may specially refer to one published by T. Harvey at Leeds, entitled "The Polynesian Slave-Trade: its character and tendencies, with reasons adduced for its total and immediate prohibition." Several questions are discussed in a calm, thoughtful, and truly Christian spirit; and we think it is satisfactorily shown that the entire suppression of the so-called labour traffic is the only mode of removing the evil existing. We commend the attentive perusal of this pamphlet to our readers; the more so, as we have been compelled to omit numerous articles on the subject referred to, in order to insert in the *Reporter* information relative to the slave-trade and slavery in other parts of the world.

SLAVE GIRLS AT MALTA.

THE Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society mourn that the Levant slave-trade continues to be carried on, and that at times *British vessels* are used to transport slave girls, under the name of "indigent passengers," from port to port in the Mediterranean Sea. On Monday evening, the 19th of February, it will be observed that—

"Mr. Gilpin asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been drawn to the following statement from the *Friend of India* of November, 1871, as to slave girls imported into Malta in a British steamer:—The *Malta Times*, writing again with reference to the Levant slave-trade, mentions that the *Abeasis*, a British steamer, which arrived at Malta from Tripoli on the 8th of September,

brought over nine black girls, shipped as indigent ship passengers by a man named Haggi, and guarded by a military personage in uniform, carrying a long regulation sword. These poor creatures were carried to the same lodging-house in Strada Sant Ursola, where they were huddled up together in a back room during their stay, and fed on dry bread and melons. They were removed from this dungeon on the 11th of September for reshipment on board a vessel bound for Constantinople. On the same day the *Trabulus Garl*, Ottoman steamer, brought two or three more from the same port. It is believed that the fact of these frequent importations of large 'families,' in spite of the vaunted laws against the traffic in slaves, has been brought under the official notice of Mr. Frank Drummond Hay, British Consul at Tripoli; and whether any inquiry had been instituted and any steps taken to prevent a recurrence of this violation of British law.

"Lord Enfield.—The attention of the authorities at Malta was called to the case mentioned in the papers by the Colonial Office. They were, it appears, aware of the circumstances at the time, and the slaves were urged, as is the custom, to take the opportunity of being on British soil to recover their liberty. This they positively refused to do, preferring to proceed to their destination. Slaves discovered in this manner have on other occasions availed themselves of the offer of the Maltese authorities, and have been maintained at the public expense until they could find work for themselves. In justice to our consuls, I ought to add that their supervision over this slave-trade is generally most vigilant, and their representations have succeeded in procuring the release of hundreds of slaves."

We rejoice to learn that through the earnest efforts of the consuls hundreds of slaves have been released; but we hope that "*British vessels*" carrying these poor enslaved girls will be dealt with as contravening the law of the land.

NATAL.

IN July, 1871, the attention of the Committee was drawn to a paragraph in the *Cape Mail and Standard* newspaper of May 4, 1871, stating that the planters through their agent had made arrangements with the Portuguese authorities and native chiefs at Delagoa Bay, Inhambane, and Quillimane, to provide Natal with batches of native labourers. Knowing how that it was more than probable this would create a species of slave-trading, the Committee felt bound to respectfully address His Excellency R. W. Keate, Esq., H.M. Lieut.-Governor of the colony of Natal, on the subject.

By the last mail, the following reply has been received from the Governor's office:—

"Governor's Office, Natal,

"Nov. 11, 1871.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Lieut.-Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated the 7th July last, with reference to a paragraph in a Cape newspaper on the subject of arrangements to supply labour to estates in Natal. I am directed to inform you, in reply, that the Lieut.-Governor has made enquiries, and finds that there is no cause for alarm or anxiety in this matter on the part of your Society, as no native labourers can be received by sea into Natal, except under Government permits, and there is a local law respecting the granting of such permits.

"I have the honor to be,

"SIR,

"Your obedient Servant,

"R. H. ERSKINE,

"Private Secretary."

The Committee will rejoice to find that the nature and working of the local law referred to are such as to prevent the possibility of a new slave-trade under the guise of immigration. The utter inefficiency of the "local law" of Queensland, under which permits are granted to import native labourers from the South Sea Islands, and the atrocious slave-trade carried on in spite of it, excite the anxieties of the Committee, lest under pretext of free labourers for Natal a new slave-trade should spring up. Especially is this to be feared when we consider the localities whence the labourers are to be obtained, and the parties with whom the agreement has been made to supply them.

JAMAICA.

TESTIMONY TO THE INDUSTRY OF THE PEASANTRY.

WITH a certain class of even benevolently disposed gentlemen, who protest against any legal wrong done to the dark races, one meets with a disposition to accept as correct, and promulgate any statements made by planters and others prejudicial to the negroes, representing them as "lazy." Does a gentleman pay a short visit to some West Indian Colony, and associate with the aristocracy of the land, he will return to his country, and talk and write about "the indolent squatters, who only care to have a full stomach and a fine dress," wanting in almost every quality which can constitute them useful and good members of society. Lately we perused a pamphlet written by Lieut. J. A. Challice, R.A., on the suppression of the East Coast African Slave-trade, who speaks of the Jamaica negro as "a mixture of slothful obstinacy, combined with fierce cowardice, which forms the character developed since emancipation of the West Indian; a character culminating in insurrection, which in itself is an instance of the mistake committed when thrusting premature, because indolent,

emancipation on slaves who were mostly born in slavery."

Such statements we know are very acceptable to some anti-negroists, but they are libels on a people who have been first wronged and robbed of their birthright when slaves, and who are now injured by the foul aspersions constantly cast on their race. That there are indolent negroes is as true as that there are indolent Englishmen; but as a class they are a contented, industrious people. We quote in evidence the testimony of men who are naturally disposed, from the profession to which they belong, to look at the darker side of human nature—of gentlemen, some of whom have lived among the negroes for years—not missionaries, who are always assumed to be admirers of the African race—but the police, who ought to know the people. Major Prendeville, the chief of the constabulary force of Jamaica, presented his report of the criminal state of the island on Nov. 30, 1870, which the Governor, Sir John Peter Grant, directed to be published, and which appears in the *Jamaica Gazette* of Dec. 15, 1870. The Major having referred to the land question and squatting, proceeds to deal with the subject of Vagrancy, and gives such a report as we think repels the accusation:—

"TESTIMONY OF THE INSPECTORS OF POLICE IN JAMAICA TO THE INDUSTRY AND CONTENTEDNESS OF THE PEASANTRY OF THAT ISLAND.

"Correlative to the subject of 'Squatting' is that of Vagrancy. 'From the moment,' says Fregier, 'that the poor man, given over to his bad passions, ceases to work, he puts himself in the position of an enemy to society, because he disregards the supreme law, which is labour. But in this country, with all its facilities for acquiring, on easy terms, the necessities for life, it cannot be said that idleness, and consequently vagrancy, prevails to any alarming extent. In the towns, especially in Kingston, the great centre of commerce and of population (34,314), there are a goodly number of vagrants, but it is not so in the rural districts. The Inspector for Clarendon (where there is a population of 42,747) reports 'that it has not come to his notice that any class of persons in that parish are leading a notoriously idle and vagabond life,' and that 'the people are all employed either on the estates, or cultivating their own grounds, or chipping logwood.' The Inspector for St. Ann's (population 39,547) says that 'the people, as a rule, work very well, and are industrious.' The Inspector for Trelawney (population 28,812) expresses pleasure in stating that the peasantry in his district 'appear to be industriously disposed.' The Inspector for St. Mary's (population 36,495) assures me 'that the labouring classes are, on the whole, industrious, cheerful, and contented.' The Inspector for St. Andrew's writes 'that the labouring population of the several districts in his parish are industrious and thriving.' The late Inspector of Westmoreland (population 40,823) also bore testimony as to the peasantry of that parish being in comfortable circumstances, owning lands, and being industrious."

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHINESE COOLIE-TRAFFIC.

THE friends of humanity will be glad to observe that the evils of this traffic have been brought under the consideration of the House of Commons.

CHINESE COOLIE-TRAFFIC.

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply,

Mr. R. N. FOWLER called attention to the Chinese coolie-traffic, and commenced by stating that systematic plans prevailed in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong for kidnapping Chinese, which for cruelty rivalled the practice on the African coast, or even the middle passage. He narrated one case in which a number of Chinese were left in the hold of a burning ship, from which a crew of forty-five escaped in four boats capable of holding eighty men. The statements of the few who managed to survive showed that they had been induced by acquaintances, on pretence of work, to make a short journey, but that, instead of having their expectations realised, they were cruelly treated and threatened by emigration agents; that they signed papers which were neither explained nor read to them, and afterwards carried off on board ship against their will. The miseries of the coolie labourers imported into the Chincha Islands were truly horrible. Those poor creatures were employed in loading vessels with guano, and the grossest cruelties were practised upon them when from weakness or other causes they did not complete their allotted tasks. They were punished with extreme severity for the most trivial offences, sometimes being bound by ropes and chains round the waist, and kept from sunrise to sunset without food for days together. Mr. Jenkins, the author of "Ginx's Baby," speaking of that coolie-traffic, said that every year thousands of Chinamen were kidnapped and induced under false pretences to leave their country, that many of them died on the voyage, and others destroyed themselves, while the scuttling and burning of the vessels in which they were conveyed proved that they were not willing emigrants. After being landed they were set to work on the farms, over-tasked, under-fed, often flogged, put in the stocks, and even killed with impunity by their employers, with no one to interfere for their protection. The description given by eye-witnesses of the treatment of these unfortunate Chinamen in Peru was truly harrowing. Some few years ago some of these unhappy men were enabled to place a memorial in the hands of the American Government, which was afterwards forwarded to Peking, when Prince Kung felt very strongly about the miseries inflicted upon his poor countrymen, and expressed a hope that the American Government would interfere on their behalf, because the Chinese Government was powerless to do so. The state of things in Cuba was very like that

existing in Peru. Into that island coolies were imported for agricultural purposes, the vessels employed in the traffic resembling those with which the descriptions of "the middle passage" had made them all familiar. On arriving at Havana these Chinamen were treated exactly like negroes, being first put into barracoons and afterwards disposed of to work in the sugar plantations. They were not accompanied by any women, and the women of Cuba viewed them with repulsion. Assassination and suicide were frequent among them, and their overseers had uncontrolled power to offer them any kind of ill-usage. Having quoted the opinion of Marshal Serrano in strong condemnation of the evils and abuses of the system, the hon. member said he had shown that traffic in the Chincha Islands, in Peru, and also in Cuba, to have many of the worst characteristics of the slave-trade, and next proceeded to point out the connection between it and the gambling practices carried on at Hong Kong in houses licensed by the British Government. The poor Chinamen who had lost all their money at these gambling-houses fell easy victims to the agents of that so-called emigration system. He could not understand how the sanction of our Government should seem to be given to gambling-houses in a British colony in spite of remonstrances of the Chief Justice and the local merchants. It was certainly remarkable that such a thing should be allowed to go on under our protection at Hong Kong at a time when it was forbidden not only by every respectable Christian State, but was also excluded from Japan, and even from every part of China where there was an honest and an energetic governor. He was sure that neither Lord Kimberley nor the hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen) wished to encourage these gambling-houses; and he would suggest that measures should be taken for their suppression. He would also urge upon the Foreign Office the propriety of using all its influence with the Portuguese Government in order to stop that Chinese coolie-traffic, in practice so near akin to the slave-trade at Macao. The hon. gentleman concluded by moving an address for papers on the subject.

Mr. HUGHES, in seconding the motion, thanked the Government for the passage in the Queen's Speech relating to the South Sea Islands, and also for the measure introduced the previous night for the prevention of outrages in those regions. It was supposed in 1863 that a deathblow had been given to the slave-trade; but it had since been found that it was a hard beast to kill, and that it was growing up like a hydra in different parts of the world under the euphonious names of the apprentice system and coolie emigration. The slave-trade was now practically flourishing in the Fiji Islands, on the east coast of Africa, in Peru, in Cuba, and more than anywhere else in China and at the Portuguese settlement of Macao. There never was a better time than the present for taking that matter strenuously in hand. Whatever might be our differences

with the United States in other respects, we were sure of the cordial co-operation of that country in putting down the slave-trade in all parts of the globe, and other civilised nations also would heartily join us in the same good work. But in order to speak with effect on that subject to other Powers we must go before them with clean hands, and to put ourselves right in that matter we must first suppress the gambling system at Hong Kong, which tended to feed the coolie-traffic at Macao, and had assumed very extraordinary proportions, for which we were responsible. When the system was first licensed by the Government it was supposed that it would have a very beneficial effect upon Hong Kong, but it had operated most detrimentally. In August, 1870, General Whitfield, the Lieutenant-Governor of Hong Kong, after having consulted the Executive Council upon the subject, who had forwarded to him a minute advising that gambling-houses should be closed after the 1st of January, 1871, sent to the Colonial Office a dispatch containing a statement to the effect that Wo Hang, the Chinese licensee under the British Government of the gambling-houses at Hong Kong, paid the Government the sum of 13,340 dols. monthly, and suggesting that the advice of the Executive Council should be adopted. General Whitfield, in answer to that dispatch, received from the Colonial Office a telegraphic message rebuking him for making such a suggestion in the absence of the Governor, and directing him to issue fresh gaming-licences upon the expiration of the old ones. It having been suggested that if the gaming-licences were put up to public auction they would realise 4,000 or 5,000 dols. more than Wo Hang paid for them, a Chinese named Wo Asee was induced to give upwards of 15,000 per month for them. In March, 1871, a memorial was signed by 947 Chinese householders, pointing out the immoral nature of the transaction and the ruin such a system brought upon the Chinese. He trusted that after the opinions that had been expressed upon the subject the new Governor who, he understood, was about to be sent to Hong Kong would put a stop to this system, and that the 680,000 dols. which had been obtained by the Government from this immoral source of revenue would be refunded, and would be rendered applicable to those unfortunate Chinese who had been reduced to poverty in Hong Kong. He begged to second the motion. (Hear.)

LORD ENFIELD would be very sorry were he to underrate the importance of this subject, which had been introduced by the hon. member in a speech that was worthy of the highest admiration for its humane character; but he wished that the hon. member had pointed out what steps other than friendly representations and counsel could be taken by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Portuguese Government in reference to this matter. Since 1853 successive Governments in this country had done their best with regard to the Chinese and other Governments to secure proper regulations being adopted with respect to coolie

emigration. In 1853 papers were laid before Parliament on the coolie-traffic containing a statement of those negotiations, and in 1855 an Act was passed for the better regulation of the emigration of Chinese in British vessels. This was communicated in a circular to Her Majesty's Consuls in January, 1856, urging upon them its strict execution. This answered as far as British vessels were concerned, but, unfortunately, it did not prevent the crimping of emigrants in a country like China. Chinese laws forbade the emigration of these natives, but it was connived at and atrocities were committed, as related in papers laid before Parliament in 1860. The occupation of Canton in 1859 resulted in establishing a better system of emigration, and Mr. Austin, the Commissioner of the West Indian Labour Agency, founded a depôt at Whampoa to replace the crimping which had existed at Canton. The Chinese Governor-General recognised these depôts by proclamation, and early in 1860 similar establishments were formed at Swatow. The free emigration of Chinese was formally stipulated for in the 5th Article of the Treaty of Tien-tsin in October, 1860. In 1865 Prince Kung proposed to Mr. Wade, their *Chargé d'Affaires*, a set of regulations protecting Chinese emigrating as hired labourers, and on the return of Sir R. Alcock these were embodied in a convention signed on the 5th of March, 1866. Objections were, however, taken to some of these provisions, both by the French Government and by our own Colonial Office. These objections were the limitation of engagements to five years, the proposal to secure the emigrant a return passage, the restrictions upon the hours of labour, the employment of youths under age, and the probable discontent of the coolies now in the British colonies, of whom there were 12,000 in British Guiana and Trinidad alone. After various communications Sir R. Alcock was told to propose a modified form of convention, and it was expected that the old regulations would still remain in force. In June, 1868, the Chinese Government replied to these fresh proposals: they abided by the convention of 1866, but declined to sanction emigration under the old rules. A long correspondence ensued, and the negotiations were partially suspended owing to the absence of instructions to the French Minister at Pekin. The French Government were now renewing negotiations, which were proceeding at Pekin. As regarded the Chinese Government, it should be remembered that the Treaty of Tien-tsin provided emigration regulations; that the Chinese Government proposed another set of regulations in 1865; that a convention was made out of them in 1866, which still remained in force; that the convention was not ratified by the British and French Governments; and that negotiations were still proceeding at Pekin as to the exportation from Macao to Peru. In October, 1866, Lord Clarendon instructed Sir A. Magennis to represent to the Portuguese Government that the mortality attendant on emigration from Macao to Peru might be lessened by the adoption of proper

regulations. Their reply was that they would adopt the regulations of the convention recently signed at Pekin. It did not appear, however, that a stop was put to these abuses. Public attention was called in 1869 to the evils of the Macao coolie emigration by the alleged branding of coolies in Peru. The Governor of Macao thereupon prohibited emigration to Callao, and Lord Clarendon directed Sir C. Murray to remonstrate. In January, 1870, the Portuguese Government informed Sir C. Murray that the story of the branding was untrue. Meanwhile Her Majesty's Government had determined, as far as in them lay, to discountenance these emigration atrocities, and in 1869 Lord Clarendon informed the Colonial Office that, looking at the way in which Chinese crimps obtained Chinese emigrants, and the sufferings they endured in other countries, and especially in Peru, they intended to prohibit the departure from Hong Kong of Chinese subjects in any other than British vessels to any place not within the dominions of the Queen. This was now in force, and had been communicated to Peru. In November, 1870, occurred the case of the coolie vessel *Nouvelle Penelope*, and about the same time the tragedy on board the *Dolores Ugarte*, stranded at Honolulu, with the sufferings of many coolies on board. Lord Granville addressed a dispatch to Lisbon on the subject, and a further report received from Her Majesty's Consul at Canton in May was communicated to the Portuguese Government last June. The *Dolores Ugarte*, under the name of *Don Juan*, was again employed in the Macao coolie-traffic, and was subsequently burnt with 500 coolies on board. On intelligence of this, Lord Granville on the 28th of July sent an instruction to Mr. Doria to remonstrate in friendly but earnest terms. The Portuguese Government, in reply, excused themselves from the charge of inhumanity, and enclosed a copy of their regulations at Macao for 1871. As a summary of what England through her Government had tried to do, he would mention the Chinese Passenger Act of 1855, the emigration system established in 1860, the formal assent of the Chinese Government to emigration under proper regulations in the Treaty of Tien-tsin, the prohibiting of Hong Kong as a depôt for emigration to any but British colonies and in British ships, and the remonstrances on all occasions with Portugal against the atrocities at Macao. This was how the matter stood up to the close of last year. With regard to Cuba, no very recent accounts had been received by the Government of the treatment of the coolies there; their numbers were very great, and there was reason to believe that they were not exposed to as great sufferings on the coolies in Peru. Our agents did not speak in their reports of any cruelties being exercised towards them. They received much better wages: a cook, he was told—and the Chinese were very expert in cooking—getting something like £10 a month. They were, moreover, subject to no punishments except at the hands of an overseer of their own nation, and if not paid well they would

commit suicide, fear of punishment having no effect upon them. Our representative at Cuba reported that the condition of the coolies there was far better off than was the case, from what he had heard, in Peru. He thought the efforts of successive Governments in the way of conventions and friendly remonstrances had not entirely failed of effect. With regard to the motion, he hoped the hon. member would be satisfied with his promise that he would endeavour to present further papers at the earliest opportunity. The subject was one in which the Foreign Office took a deep interest, and he trusted that, as time went on, their efforts would produce the desired effect, so that the feelings of Englishmen would not be shocked in future years by a repetition of atrocities on which the hon. member had dwelt with so much force and good taste. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GILPIN thanked the hon. member for calling attention to so crying an evil. The fact was that the slave-trade, under various forms, was as rife at this moment as in the worst times of the middle passage. He wished to know whether there was any truth in the statement that a high official at Hong Kong, discharged some years ago for complicity in the traffic, had been restored to the Government service, and had used his influence in promoting both the traffic and the gambling-houses. Macao had very little trade with any other part of the world, being almost wholly maintained by gambling-houses and the coolie-traffic. He hoped the question would be left in the hands of the Government, which could best judge how to use its influence with Spain and Portugal.

Some further remarks having been made by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen and Mr. Fowler, the amendment was withdrawn.—*The Times*.

THE CHINESE COOLIE-TRADE.

ON this important discussion we cannot do better than quote the remarks of one of our contemporaries, whose observations deserve thoughtful consideration:—

A praiseworthy attempt was made by Mr. Fowler on the order of the day for going into supply on Friday last to induce the Government to employ some efficient means to put an end to the abuses of the Chinese coolie-traffic. But, notwithstanding that he was vigorously seconded by Mr. Hughes, we fear the effort is likely to be as barren of result as all that has hitherto been attempted in the same direction. No one denies the monstrous nature of the abuses, or can affect to be ignorant of their existence; abuses, be it remarked, which could have no permanence without the connivance, if not the direct participation, of foreign Powers and their subjects. Some 15,000 or 20,000 natives of China are annually taken from their homes and sent into virtual slavery in Peru and Cuba, with scarcely a chance of ever returning to tell of their wrongs. A merciless system of crimping and violence is kept up by foreign agencies, and for the sole benefit of foreign

shipowners, traders, and planters; and all this is done under foreign flags. The Chinese Government and people have appealed in vain to the representatives of all the Treaty Powers, well knowing that without such aid they are powerless to apply an effective remedy. Against the employment of foreign vessels what can the Chinese do without the co-operation of those who alone have jurisdiction over them? The traffic is called emigration—falsely; the signed contracts of the victims are in the vast majority of cases merely so many evidences of fraud and deception. The ultimate destiny of the so-called hired labourers—too well attested to admit of dispute—is a sufficient answer to the emigration plea. The Parliamentary papers which appeared last session as to the fate reserved for coolies in British Guiana, suffice to show their need of protection, even under British rule. But the situation of these men is enviable compared with that reserved for the workers in the Chincha Islands. It may be reasonably doubted whether the Negro slave has ever been subjected to such evil conditions. And yet Sir C. Adderley could get up in the House of Commons and express a regret that the unratified Convention of 1865, by stipulating for a five years' term of service and a free passage back, should have interposed obstacles to the continuance of the previous system! In other words, he objects that the conditions held essential by France and Great Britain, in their Conventions of 1860 and 1861 with each other, for the Indian ryot, should be deemed no less necessary for the Chinese coolie. He denounces them as altogether too onerous to be borne by those who seek to profit by their labour.

The reply of the two Under-Secretaries, each for his own department, the Foreign and the Colonial, afforded an example, only too common in these days, of a Government under representative institutions admitting the existence of a crying evil as well as a scandal, and yet putting off all responsibility for inaction. According to Lord Enfield and Mr. Hugessen, the outrages perpetrated for the last twenty years on the Chinese people under all foreign flags was purely a Portuguese affair. Macao being a Portuguese colony, and the depôt from whence so many victims were annually shipped, it was contended that if the Portuguese Government would not stop it there was no remedy. And Mr. Eastwick, in the true spirit of the non-intervention policy, asked why this country was to be so Quixotic as to interfere in matters that did not directly concern her? This is to descend rather low in the scale of motives for a justification of indifference to the perpetration of a great wrong. But if such ground is to be taken a very sufficient answer is at hand. Action should be taken for the sake of consistency in a nation which for more than half a century lavished both blood and money to put down slavery all over the world, and to stop the traffic in African negroes. And if this is not enough, we may say that the perpetuation of this trade in human beings does directly and in a very

large degree affect our material interests. In keeping up a well-founded feeling of distrust and hostility to all foreigners in the Chinese mind, it renders progress in commercial matters more difficult, and tends to jeopardise our position in China, with all the material interests involved in its maintenance and improvement. By spreading throughout China, or among the population of the coasts, a dread of being forced to a distant country, where, sacrificed to the cupidity of foreign masters, they will perish, far from their households and irrevocably severed from the spirits of their ancestors, the flood of emigration is stopped. Left to itself, it has a natural tendency to overflow to the shores of Australia and California—to wherever, in fact, a hope of profitable employment can lure one of the most industrious, sober, and thrifty of the Eastern races. But under the existing rule the supply to the labour market is checked. Give a Chinaman a fair prospect of saving money and returning within some definite and reasonable period to his own land, and he will go to the ends of the world of his own free will. The thousands and tens of thousands that have peopled all the Eastern Archipelago, swarmed over to Australia and the opposite shores of the Pacific, to California and the Rocky Mountains, afford sufficient evidence of the truth of this statement. Why do they not equally go to the West Indies, Guiana, or Cuba? It is not the fear of rough treatment, for they have had enough of that both in Australia and California. The hope of profit prevails over any such fear, and they go not the less, retaining their freedom, and drawing other thousands after them, either by their return comparatively rich, or by their reports of health and prosperity sent home. It is not because gold fields are more enticing than sugar plantations, though the fact is indisputable; but simply that from the one the Chinese see living men return, and receive news from friends and relations there telling them that there is room for more, and work and pay; while from the Chincha guano islands, from the swamps of Guiana, or the tobacco plantations of Cuba, they hear no good reports, and see no returning emigrant. If they hear at all, it is of ill-usage, suicide, and death.

What should be done, then, to amend this most untoward and discreditable state of affairs? Is it indeed beyond all remedy, as Under-Secretaries and non-intervention politicians would persuade us? Surely that can hardly be. The problem to be solved is doubtless not without its difficulties—real and practical difficulties—but they are so far from insurmountable that a short time would suffice, if not to apply a radical remedy to all the abuses of the existing system, at any rate to diminish the evil greatly, and prepare the way for a speedy termination of anything approaching to a mere slave-traffic. The first step would seem clearly to be the prohibition by law of all shipment of coolies under contract from the Chinese coasts, including Macao, in British ships. We should thus follow a good example set by the United States many years ago, and start clean-handed to the work of negotiation with other foreign

Powers and the Chinese Government. The next step would be to devise a system of emigration which might afford a more sufficient safeguard against the employment of deception or force in the shipment of coolies willing to seek more distant labour-markets. This system should be organised not under less generous or stringent conditions than France and England agreed upon for the protection of the Indian ryot, as Sir C. Adderley would advise, but possibly under still larger provisions for the safety and well-being of the labourer. If such conditions be considered too onerous for planters who wish for the labour, we are sorry for them, but are clearly of opinion they should look elsewhere in that case for working hands to supply their need.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE PHILLIPS FUND.

THE Treasurer of the Society hereby acknowledges, with many thanks, the receipt of the following sums received on behalf of the widow and family of the late Rev. Thomas Phillips, Assistant-Secretary, who departed this life Sept. 30, 1871:—

	£	s.	d.
Robert Charleton, Bristol	50	0	0
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Lucy Clark	0	10	0
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W. Wilson	1	0	0
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R. C. Barrow, Birmingham	2	0	0
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Henry Richardson, York ...	£2	2	0
J. M. Albright, Charlbury ...	1	0	0
G. B. Lloyd, Birmingham ...	20	0	0
Total ...	£226	9	0

EX-GOVERNOR EYRE.

MR. GLADSTONE, in reply to questions put to him by honourable members in the House, has stated that Her Majesty's Government do not intend to bestow any special pension or appointment upon Mr. Eyre, but they propose to submit a vote for the repayment to him of expenses incurred in respect of legal proceedings against him. We hope that the members will refuse the grant on principle.

CUBAN REFUGEES IN JAMAICA.

LORD ENFIELD stated that no information had been received from the Governor of Jamaica respecting the refugees who had been escaping in large numbers from massacre in Cuba.

COOLIES IN BRITISH GUIANA.

IN reply to Mr. Gilpin, Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen stated, in the House of Commons, that Sir George Young, one of the Commissioners, had been requested to draft an ordinance to consolidate and amend the immigration laws of British Guiana, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission. When ready, the ordinance will be transmitted to the colony. We hope it will be such as shall remove the disabilities under which the coolies now lie, and give them the rights and safeguards to which every British subject is entitled.

FROM *The Jamaica County Union* we learn that, on January 27, a small boat, *The Lark*, left Montego Bay, having on board Mr. Joseph Phillips, the owner, two or three excursionists, and the crew, bound for Cayman Brack. Stress of weather drove the vessel on the coast of Cuba. She was detained, and all on board put in prison, at Manzanilla, by the Spanish authorities. So soon as the Governor of Jamaica, Sir J. P. Grant, was put in possession of the facts, he succeeded in effecting the escape of the prisoners. We are thankful that they were so fortunate, but trust that the English Government will so interfere as to prevent the recurrence of such an outrage.

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Alexander, Frederic, Esq., Ipswich ...	(sub.)	£0	10	0
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Braithwaite, Isaac, Esq., London ... (don.)	5	0	0
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Cash, Sarah M., Dorking ... "	0	10	0
Clark, John, Brown's Town, Jamaica (per. sub.) ... "	0	10	6
Ditto ditto (Church col.)	2	0	0
Cooper, Joseph, Walthamstow ... "	1	1	0
Curtis, William, Alton ... "	0	10	0
Dawson, Mr., Exeter... ... "	0	5	0
Dillwyn, Mrs. S. A., Bath ... "	1	0	0
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THE
ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER,
For JULY 1, 1872,
WITH THE
Abstract of Proceedings
OF THE
BRITISH AND FOREIGN
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,
TO
DECEMBER 31st, 1871;
AND
REPORT OF ADDRESSES
DELIVERED AT
A PUBLIC MEETING
AT
THE FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSE, BISHOPSGATE STREET,
During the Yearly Meeting, 1872,
BY
CHARLES GILPIN, M.P., Esq., CHAIRMAN,
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THE REV. HORACE WALLER,
SIR THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, BART.,
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